



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

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BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG) MINUTES

June 18, 2019 2:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jessica Bellah (for Jane Dembner)
Jennifer Biddle
Ryan Channel
Jack Guarneri
Deb Jung
Lt Jeff Specht
Chris Tsien
Paul Walsky

Office of Transportation Staff

Allison Calkins
David Cookson
Chris Eatough
Albert Guiney Engel
Lauren Frank
Bruce Gartner, Administrator
Rashidi Jackson

Non-Members Present

Derek Riley, State Highway Administration
Kris Singleton, Department of Public Works

1. Approval of the March 19, 2019 Minutes (minute :01)

Chris Eatough announced the passing of BAG member, Jane Dembner. Jessica Bellah and Jack Guarneri spoke briefly about Jane.

Chris Tsien moved to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Board (BAG) meeting. Jessica Bellah seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Baltimore region long range transportation plan (Maximize2045) (minute :05)

David Cookson announced that today, June 19th, is the last day for public comments on Maximize2045, Baltimore region long-range transportation plan. David provided a brief background and said the best scored plan was the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on US29. David said the scoring is based on performance indicators and the total cost of the project. The Office of Transportation and Baltimore Metropolitan Council held a Maximize2045 public meeting, June 11, 2019.

Chris Eatough introduced Bruce Gartner, the new Office of Transportation Administrator and Deb Jung, Howard County Councilmember. A round of introductions followed.

3. **FY2020 Capital Budget and BikeHoward Express** (change in agenda) (minute :14)

Albert Engel said the FY2020 capital budget has been adopted, allowing the Office of Transportation to determine how to allocate money for the current year. Albert presented a proposed projects table and discussed two projects. Robert Fulton Drive pathway should be starting soon, and the funds to add bike lanes on Columbia Road may be deferred to other proposed projects. Albert also noted J4230 Sanner Road Improvements and the addition of approximately four miles of bike infrastructure being added this summer.

Jack Guarneri asked Albert for the chart showing the number of miles of bike lanes being added 2018-2020. It was discussed that the chart would be presented at the next Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group and Bicycle Advisory Group Joint meeting on September 17th.

4. **Update on ongoing construction projects** (minute :24)

Chris Eatough provided an update on three ongoing construction projects.

- Sharrows were recently added to Levering Avenue.
- Bike lanes will be added to Lightning View Road, Summer Sunrise Drive, and Old Columbia Road by the end of the summer, after the roads have been resurfaced. Bike lanes on Old Columbia Road will be added without road resurfacing. A solution is being worked on to allow parking in bike lanes on Summer Sunrise Drive during special events at the community pool.
- Work is being done on the Howard Community College Connector which includes a new crossing across Hickory Ridge Road with a pedestrian refuge median and a marked crosswalk, and a shared-use pathway throughout the HCC campus.

Jack Guarneri expressed concerns with branches and debris located in bike lanes. Chris Eatough said Kris Jagarapu, Bureau Chief of Highways, is working on getting additional grant funding for bike lane sweeping.

5. **Triadelphia Road bridge during MD 32 construction** (minute:32)

Chris Eatough announced that State Highway Administration (SHA) held a public meeting regarding the widening of MD 32. Jack Guarneri said during MD 32 construction, the Triadelphia Road bridge will only be open to eastbound traffic. Westbound traffic will follow a detour which he believes is not suitable for bikes. The correction was made a few moments later that the bridge will only be open to *westbound* traffic and closed to *eastbound* traffic. Derek Riley said the design-build team will be placing bike signs along MD 32 allowing shoulder use by bicyclists. Chris Tsien said it was apparent in the public meeting that SHA only thought about accommodating motor traffic during construction. Derek Riley said pedestrians and bicyclists were considered and the biggest goal of the project was to accelerate construction to limit the amount of impact. Jack expressed concerns with the lack of signage notifying people of the bridge closure. Derek Riley replied that SHA will be putting out warning signs two-weeks prior to construction. Bruce Gartner stated that SHA has reduced the length of the closure to pedestrians to one year. Jessica Bellah asked if a flagger could be provided at certain times of the day. Derek Riley stated that a flagger is not being provided.

Jack Guarneri offered to send Jennifer Biddle road maintenance issues. She recommended using the TellHoco app which is a better way to communicate and track issues.

6. **Complete Streets Policy update** (minute :58)

Chris Eatough said the Office of Transportation is hoping to pre-file the Complete Streets Policy with County Council in August. The draft policy was presented to the Multimodal Transportation Board (MTB) in May. Advocates who attended the meeting believed there were areas of the policy that were lacking and urged the MTB not to endorse the policy. OoT is working on updates to the policy with the Complete Streets Implementation Team and will go back to the MTB for endorsement on 6/25/19. Jack Guraneri also suggested there be a citizen member on the team for updating the Design Manual.

7. **Bike to Work Day recap** (minute 1:05)

Allison Calkins announced a successful Bike to Work Day event on May 17th. Howard County had about 300 registered participants. The event will still be in held Downtown Columbia next year. Chris Eatough said anyone is welcomed to hold a pit stop for the event.

Jack Guarneri suggested inviting Eric Bishop, Coordinator of Health and Physical Education, Howard County Public School System, to a future BAG meeting regarding bike rodeos.

8. **“Look Alive” Baltimore region bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign**
(minute 1:10)

Chris Eatough presented Baltimore Metropolitan Council’s (BMC) new safety campaign featuring “signal woman”, a more positive approach to pedestrian safety. A YouTube video was shown to members as an example of the campaign. Printed materials will be available on request.

9. **Open discussion period** (minute 1:13)

Chris Eatough announced the Patuxent Branch Trail is closed from Savage Park to Lake Elkhorn due to overhead tree hazards.

Jessica Bellah said she will be able to provide data from Columbia Association bike and pedestrian counter programs at the next Transit and Pedestrian Group (TPAG) and Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) joint meeting in September. She also stated that one finding from the counts was significantly higher through bicycle rides on the Patuxent Branch Trail at Old Guilford Road, likely due to the new trail improvements at that location.

Members discussed the possibility of naming the future South Entrance Trail after Jane Dembner.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.

Action Items:

- *Office of Transportation will present the bicycle mileage table at the Joint TPAG and BAG meeting, September 17th.*
 - *Jack Guarneri will encourage the use of TellHoco for reporting road conditions.*
 - *Office of Transportation will invite Eric Bishop, HCPSS, to a future BAG meeting to discuss bike rodeos.*
 - *Jessica Bellah will provided bike and pedestrian count data at the TPAG and BAG joint meeting September 17th.*
 - *Jack Guarneri will help spread the word about the Patuxent Branch Trail closure.*
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6/20/19

Bruce Gartner Date
Executive Secretary



6/20/19

Lauren Frank Date